

Aging

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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Florida: Moving Toward a Brighter Future for Its Aged

by Irving L. Webber, Institute of Gerontology,
University of Florida at Gainesville.

Growing concern with the older population of Florida was highlighted in a recent speech by Governor Collins. "As I go around this state," he observed, "I am constantly amazed at the number of tremendously qualified people I meet who are retired or semi-retired. This state of ours is a mecca for retired persons who were highly skilled professionals, technicians, craftsmen or artists back home. Thousands of them want something to do and we are allowing a terrible erosion of human resources to take place by not finding productive places for them."

Action for the aging at the State level in Florida began in 1949 when Governor Warren appointed a 15-member Citizens Committee on Retirement in Florida. Shortly afterward a Retirement Research Division was established in the official planning agency. Both ceased to function, however, in 1953.

At present, coordination and stimulation of interest are being sought through the Retirement Department of the Florida Development Commission and through an Inter-Departmental Working Committee composed of representatives of the operating agencies whose programs affect the aged. The Retirement Department provides communities with resource materials and offers limited consultation service. Its major efforts are directed toward furthering employment of the older worker.

Certain State agencies have for several years been taking progressive steps in behalf of the aging. The State Employment Service maintains older-worker specialists in its head office and in several offices in larger cities. It cooperated in the national older-worker survey and recently cospon-

sored a series of forums on employment problems of older women.

The Department of Public Welfare has assisted communities in organizing, has cooperated in surveying nursing-home problems, and last year incorporated services as a recognized part of its program for the aged. In Hillsborough County (Tampa) the Department has a prominent role in the Committee on Planning Overall Services to Older People, and in Dade County (Miami) it worked with the Community Service Planning Council and the nursing home association in conducting an intensive study of the cost of institutional care in that community. The State Department of Education has published a review of physiological and psychological changes in aging with a discussion of implications for teachers of adults.

Especially active in the field is the State Board of Health. In Pinellas County (St. Petersburg-Clearwater) an assistant health officer has been appointed to give major attention to health needs of the aged. In December, he and the Assistant State Health Officer held, in St. Petersburg, a conference of consultants in public health and related fields to plan a pilot program of demonstration and research projects. As these projects develop, public health programs in other counties will be modified to serve better the health needs of the aged. In Dade County, medical, psychological, and social studies are being carried out to uncover factors in the long-term confinement of aged persons in nursing homes. In addition, the Board works through inspection and licensing of nursing homes to improve physical facilities and quality of care.

Florida's universities are playing an active part through research and experimentation with new services. The University of Miami has committed

itself to a major effort in the field of gerontology. The School of Medicine founded its Geriatric Clinic in 1955, and a university-wide Council on Gerontology the following year. More recently an Institute of Gerontology has been formed within the Medical School. The Institute will operate a metabolic and nutrition laboratory now under construction at the Jewish Home for the Aged of Greater Miami. Several basic research projects are under way.

The University of Florida's Institute of Gerontology, founded in 1951, holds annual conferences on gerontology, publishes reports, issues a quarterly newsletter, and conducts studies. The Departments of Sociology and Anthropology, Home Economics, Industrial Engineering, and Agricultural Economics, and the Bureau of Economic and Business Research have long-term interests in this field. Research on aging in the Institute and elsewhere in the University has included studies of demography, human nutrition, design of housing for older people, retirement farming, economics of retirement, and retired persons in the community. A current project deals with social and economic problems of adjustment of persons who migrate at or near the time of retirement compared with those who remain in their own communities. The Institute is also a participant in the Inter-University Training Project in Social Gerontology (see *Aging* 31).

The General Extension Division of Florida, which represents State institutions of higher learning, has for the past two years offered, in cities throughout the State, institutes on the church and the senior citizen. Registrants in these institutes, organized on an interfaith and non-denominational basis, have included clergymen, church workers, and other community leaders. Since 1953 the Division has experimented with two promising pilot projects, art courses for aged residents of the Memorial Home Community at Penney Farms and of Moosehaven at Orange Park, and creative writing and art classes at Daytona Beach. Moreover, class rolls for other extension courses reveal that a great many men and women beyond normal retirement age are actively interested in intellectual and creative pursuits.

At the community level much heartening activity likewise is taking place. St. Petersburg's diversified recreational program is widely known; it includes arts and crafts instruction, public forums, library discussions, dancing, shuffleboard, tennis, and other activities. At least one church has launched a program for older members under the guidance of a social worker, and steps are being taken by the Community Welfare Council to organize a volunteer bureau.

In Duval County an active Senior Citizens Com-

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Buffalo's Salvation Army Program

by Lucille Kinne, Director, Family & Personal Service Department, Salvation Army, Buffalo

The Family and Personal Service Department first became interested in aging in 1949 when elderly people began coming to the office seeking new friends. A Golden Age Club was organized, then expanded. When our dreams of a new building became a reality, plans were made for a complete Golden Age Center.

The program is now centered in our new building at 960 Main St., near enough to the downtown area of Buffalo to be easily accessible. Activities all take place on the lower floor in rooms designed with the older person in mind.

On first glance, the most interesting room is the drop-in lounge with its comfortable furniture, attractive drapes, lamps and pictures that give a pleasant "living-room" feeling. Here the older person can enjoy a good book or magazine, write a letter, watch television, or just sit and visit with a friend or the day's "host" or "hostess".

Across the hall are the rooms for counseling, employment interviewing, the Geriatric Clinic, and the Doctor's Office.

A very large meeting room serves many purposes and can be divided into two parts as needed. It is used for the large, weekly club meetings, special classes, industrial subcontract work, clerical work for community services, etc. Sometimes the group engages in folk games, exercises, or shuffleboard in this area.

Adjacent to this large work-play area is the light and cheery craft room, well outfitted with work tables, stools, cupboards, and various equipment. Two kilns are kept busy by the members of the ceramics class who make products for themselves, for civic projects, and for display and sale. Recently we held a products clinic, sponsored by the Department of Commerce, to discuss design, pricing, marketing, and packaging.

The Geriatrics Clinic, a part of the Family and Personal Service Department, was opened in August 1957. It serves the dual purpose of consultation for the correlation of medical care for needy persons referred for evaluation and as a medical outpost for those who are in need of further medical care. The Medical Director, Dr. T. C. Krauss, provides the latter service by devoting one day a week to examinations. The Clinic does not duplicate existing community facilities but closely cooperates with the geriatrics program of the U. of Buffalo School of Medicine.

Other activities of the Golden Age Clubs afford many opportunities for self expression. For those with a talent for writing there is the Quill Club, which publishes the club paper, *Golden Agers' News and Views*. Future plans include talks by

successful writers and eventual publication of a book of poems and short articles especially written by members of the Club.

A most flourishing group is the Golden Notes Band. Directed by its accomplished accordionist, the group boasts of a talented pianist, two drummers and several "kazooers" and is much in demand by outside organizations. Dressed in their black felt jackets and berets decorated with golden notes, the Band entertains at Golden Age programs and appears for outside groups on the average of twice a month.

A group growing in popularity is the Clef Club, composed of singers who rehearse each week and specialize in 4-part harmony with piano accompaniment. This club often joins the Band to present musical programs at the Veterans Hospital, Service Clubs, and at the Golden Age Club.

To prevent a break in the busy, daily activity at the Center, luncheons are served from a modern kitchen. Members interested in culinary activities prepare food not only for the luncheons but also for special parties and make cakes and cookies for sale.

Activities are, of course, not restricted to our building. We have a beautiful camp on Lake Seneca, near Geneva, N.Y., where we camp one week each year. We also enjoy many day and overnight trips to other cities—our longest trip was to New York City for five days.

One of our most ambitious projects is the provision of vocational counseling and placement services for persons over 45. This is an integral part of our total pilot program of geriatrics service, including social, psychological and medical diagnosis, and is a part of the project sponsored by the Employment Division of the State Department of Labor.

The "older workers" are interviewed in the office in our building with the object of job counseling and finding suitable employment. To this end, a series of steps are taken: Latent, usable skills are reexamined and reevaluated; an attempt to correct lack of self confidence, if such is the case, is started; and, where indicated, health examinations to determine physical limitations are given.

Where placements cannot be made, self employment or other sources of income are explored and necessary planning and contacts made.

To serve those currently employed, we maintain contacts with local employers and encourage them to provide pre-retirement counseling or to refer employees to us to start better "after-retirement" planning.

Last November we conducted a most successful *School for Santa Clauses*. Our 13 students, all over 60, were successfully placed in local department stores.

Retired Professors Registry Opens

On January 1st, a Retired Professors Registry, jointly sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors under a grant from the Ford Foundation, opened offices at 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

The Registry represents an important step in meeting the shortage of college teachers, in tapping a significant manpower resource badly needed to meet mounting student enrollments, and in providing opportunities for further service for the many faculty members forced into retirement. A recent study by New York University showed that over half of a group of retired professors had taken assignments, the majority of them full time in institutions other than the ones from which they were retired.

The Registry acts as a placement agency only. It registers retired faculty members who desire to continue to work in higher education institutions and refers such retirees to institutions who request referrals to meet their need for additional staff. Negotiations for employment are then conducted by the candidate and the institution.

Dr. Louis D. Corson has left his position as Dean of Men at the University of Alabama to accept appointment as Director of the Registry. Forms, etc., may be obtained from the Registry's office.

Bridgeport: A Case Study of How to Run a Conference on Aging

Last September, a community-wide Conference on Aging was held in Bridgeport, Connecticut, sponsored jointly by the local Section of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Eastern Fairfield County Community Council.

Behind this was a year of work and planning by the sponsors. The National Council of Jewish Women Section, guided by materials from their national office, approached the County Community Council, which agreed to cosponsorship.

Letters immediately went out to everyone in the area who might be interested—businessmen, religious leaders, welfare workers and administrators, senior citizen groups, employment service staff, etc. As the list of participants grew, the newspapers devoted more space to the conference plans, the publicity in turn arousing the interest of additional members of the community.

Fact-finding committees, many led by prominent specialists, studied the local scene and came up with basic data: 21,000 persons in the greater Bridgeport area are 65 or over; 1,169 of them cannot get along on their own but depend on Old-Age Assistance averaging \$66.19 a month plus \$16

(continued on page 7, column 2)

Aging

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SPECIAL STAFF ON AGING

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Marion B. Folsom, Secretary

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AGING is a medium for sharing information about programs and activities among agencies and organizations in the field, their staffs and board members and other interested individuals. Communications and items suitable for publication should be sent to The Editors of *Aging*, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C.

Subscription \$1.00 a year, 25 cents additional for foreign mailing; 10 cents for single copy. Send to Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. The printing of this bulletin has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, August 22, 1957.

Conferences

The Indiana State Commission on the Aging and Aged is planning the April 24th *Governor's Conference on Aging*, to be held at Indianapolis Fair Grounds. Attendance of approximately 600 is expected. For further information write to the Commission's Chairman, Dr. George E. Davis, 3516 Central Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind.

The second annual *National Convention of Senior Citizens and Golden Age Clubs* will be held in Saint Louis, June 5-7 (see *Aging* 39). Advance indications are that 2,000 senior citizens will attend general educational sessions and workshop meetings, take a boat trip on the Mississippi, visit points of interest, and have at least one evening of square-dancing. Professor Anthony Salamone, Director of Adult Education, Saint Louis University, is General Chairman for the *Convention*.

The *National Geriatrics Society* will hold its fifth annual *Convention and Exposition* on May 12-15 at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York City. *Convention* chairman is Stanley H. Hoffman, 225 E. 234th St., Bronx, N. Y.

North Carolina, pioneer in the field of recreation for older persons, will be the scene of the *Third Southern Regional Institute on Recreation for the Aging*. The *Institute* will take place March 27-29 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and will feature presentations by national and local authorities as well as activities in four Sections. A one-day conference on March 26 on the adult discussion program, "Aging in the Modern World" (see *Aging* 32), will precede the *Institute*. For further information, write to Director Harold D. Meyer, Box 1139, Chapel Hill, N. C.

The theme of the *Eighth Annual Southern Conference on Gerontology*, to be held April 10-11 on the campus of the University of Florida at Gainesville, will be *Organized Religion and the Older Person*. Distinguished social scientists and clergymen of the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths will participate. For further information, write Dr. Frank T. Adams, Jr., General Extension Division, 909 Seagle Bldg., Gainesville, Fla.

News of State Commissions

The D/HEW Region III Committee on Aging reports that a Virginia special legislative study commission has recommended the creation of a permanent commission on aging to study the problems of persons 65 years of age and over, to make recommendations, to work for coordination of the various public and private agencies in the field, and to report annually to the Governor.

The Commission would consist of the State Health Commissioner, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Department of Welfare and Institutions, the Commissioners of Labor and of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals, and five representatives of the general public to be appointed by the Governor. The Governor would also appoint a full-time chairman at \$8,000 per year.

The legislative study commission listed the following ten goals in behalf of older people toward which the State should work:

1. Opportunity, if physically and mentally able, to be gainfully employed.
2. Income sufficient for health and for participation in community life as self-respecting citizens.
3. Satisfaction of living in their own homes or in suitable substitute private homes.
4. Institutions serving them "to be as home-like as possible and have high standards of care."
5. Adequate nutrition, preventive medicine, and medical care adapted to the conditions of their years.
6. Restoration to independent, useful lives in their homes and communities of persons chronically ill or disturbed or unemployable for other

reasons.

7. Encouragement and assistance to form social groups and to participate with those of other ages in recreational, educational, religious, and civic activities in their communities.

8. Information, advice, vocational training and retraining in planning for retirement and meeting the crises of their later years.

9. Increased research on the human aspects of aging and development of special courses in schools and departments of medicine, nursing, clinical psychology and social work to train workers in the field of aging.

10. Increased emphasis on the right of older citizens to free choice, self-help, and planning of their own futures.

The Way the Wind Blows

The Bureau of the Census has just released its detailed estimates of total U. S. population as of July 1, 1957, by age, color, and sex. Since the 1950 census, total population increased by 20 million (13.3%) to 171.2 million. Persons 65 and over, however, increased by 21% (more than 2.5 million) to a total of more than 14.7 million. Those in the 45 to 64 age group increased at a rate slightly less than the total population, while the 18 to 24 group showed an actual decrease of 4.7%. As expected, the 5 to 13 year olds (the post-war babies) showed the biggest gain, 35.5% (7.9 million) to a current total of more than 30 million. The more rapid increase in longevity among women was again demonstrated as the 65 and over group showed an increase to 118 women per 100 men. The release (Series P-25, No. 170) is for sale for 25¢ by the Bureau of the Census in Washington or through the Department of Commerce field offices.

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A most interesting project, similar in aims to the Retired Professors Registry described elsewhere in this issue, has been launched by Walter D. Fuller, retired Chairman of the Curtis Publishing Company. Mr. Fuller, however, specializes in bringing together compulsorily retired executive and management personnel with companies who need specific analyses, advice, and consultation. The Walter D. Fuller Company, Public Ledger Bldg., Philadelphia 6, Pa., describes itself as "an agency for supplying experienced business specialists for part-time management assignments, and as advisors on specific business problems."

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The Marquette University College of Nursing started a credit course, *Nursing in Long-Term Illness*, on February 10th. The course meets Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 at Johnston Hall, 1131 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

Americus, county seat of Georgia's Sumter County (pop. 24,000), boasts a new mental health research organization, the *Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, Inc.* Financed by an endowment of more than \$800,000 from Mrs. Mix, the Fund will concern itself primarily with study of the community aspects of mental infirmities and diseases. It will devote special attention to the etiology and control of mental illnesses commonly found among older persons in small-town and rural settings.

The Director, Dr. Jay Lee Chambers, reports that the mere establishment of the Fund has given encouragement to local organizations concerned with older persons. Important among the agencies which will collaborate with the Fund are the new community hospital and Georgia Southwestern College, whose President, Lloyd A. Moll, played a major role in developing the project.

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The National Health and Welfare Retirement Association, Inc., of 800—2nd Ave., New York 17, N. Y., has issued its 12th Annual Report. The Association maintains a retirement system, usually in supplementation of social security, under New York State insurance laws, for employees of nonprofit organizations devoted to charitable, health, or welfare work. The report opens with a letter from HEW Secretary Folsom, from which the following is quoted:

"One aspect of the NH & WRA program I commend particularly; that is the principle of full and immediate vesting of pension benefits. Under this provision each period of employment rendered by an employee carries its fair share of the cost of his ultimate retirement.

"Thus an employee should be able to carry his pension rights from one employer to another. This is especially necessary in such growing fields of service as health, education, and welfare, where changes of employment and movement up the ladder of progress are desirable to keep pace with the expanding community needs.

"I am pleased also to note the new provisions for optional retirement as late as 75, as well as early retirement at age 50 when necessary, such as in case of permanent disability."

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Libraphone, Inc., producer and distributor of "talking books" on 16-2/3 rpm records and of the necessary equipment for individual or group listening, reports that whereas their service was originally designed for hospital patients, its use by older persons with low vision or other handicaps has been expanding. The firm prefers to deal with libraries and organizations that can make the service available to the whole community. For literature and price lists, write to Libraphone, Inc., 550 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N. Y.

The nationally distributed Sunday supplement, *The American Weekly*, for February 2nd, features a copiously illustrated article, "We Live On Our Social Security," which tells the first-hand story of a couple who moved to Youngtown, an Arizona town designed strictly for people 50 and over, located 16 miles northwest of Phoenix.

Arnold Doom, sales director for the developers of Youngtown, informs us that FHA-approved two-bedroom homes sell for \$7500 or \$7650, depending on type of roof, with a 2% discount for cash. Other homes are available for cash. FHA mortgage loans require a fixed monthly income of about \$250 or a qualified co-signer or a larger down payment. Taxes approximate \$125 a year; water is supplied at a flat rate of \$4 a month.

The home owners have organized a civic club and publish a processed newspaper, *The Youngtown News*. In addition, the town has an active social center, two churches, a lapidary shop, a wood-working shop, a doctor, and a business center under construction.



Business Week for December 7, 1957, carries an article, "Business Advice from the Shelf," which explores the development, activities and drawbacks of a kind of voluntary consultant service by retired executives as compared to the commercial service inaugurated by the Walter D. Fuller Company, noted elsewhere in this issue. It concludes that while retired executives can fill an urgent need among small businesses that couldn't afford regular consultant fees and that such services give them a warm feeling of being useful in business life, there are serious difficulties in both the form of organization and the concept.

Books, Pamphlets and Reports

Non-Group Enrollment for Health Insurance, published by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., at \$5, is the complete report on the 2-year study by the Health Information Foundation of a major problem in voluntary health insurance—the enrollment of self-supporting persons not eligible for coverage under employee group contracts. These include older persons not eligible because of age, and retired persons no longer eligible for group coverage through their former places of employment.

The study shows that 35% of the U.S. population are not eligible for group coverage; and of these, only about one-quarter actually carried health insurance on a non-group basis. The study investigates the problems involved and some of the techniques in use, especially among Blue Cross plans, to encourage greater non-group enrollment and formation of new kinds of groups to provide more opportunities for coverage.

The 1958 edition of *Programs of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Affecting Older Persons* has been released by the Special Staff on Aging. This document describes the current programs and activities of each of the constituent agencies within the Department (Social Security Administration, Public Health Service, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Education, and Food and Drug Administration) and of the Special Staff on Aging (Office of the Secretary) as they relate to aging. A special feature of this edition is a new section on "Highlights of Recent Activities in Aging." Single copies are available free from the Special Staff on Aging, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C.



The entire January issue of *R.N.—A Journal for Nurses* is devoted to nursing in relation to geriatrics. The scope is indicated by the titles of the articles: The Case for Geriatric Nursing; Editorial: What the Aged Mean to You; The Elderly Patient Today; The Major Disabilities of Old Age; Why Old People Act That Way; Teamwork Gets the Aged Back in Circulation; Mr. Rao Gets the Full Treatment; The Nurse's Part in Reactivating the Elderly; Bed Rest Isn't for Them; Nobody Wants the Incontinent; They Learn to Walk Again; Now They're on Their Own; The Geriatric Medicine Chest. The Journal is published by the Nightingale Press, P. O. Box 279, Rutherford, N. J. Subscriptions: \$2 a year or 25¢ a copy.



The December 1957 issue of the *Chronic Illness Newsletter* (Council of Medical Service of the American Medical Association, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Ill.) reports on the establishment by the Michigan State Health Department of an Advisory Committee on Nursing Homes and Homes for the Aged and on the preliminary results of a San Francisco survey of community health needs and resources. The Michigan Advisory Committee will consider proposed revisions to State Health Department regulations regarding licensing of homes, will review provisional licenses and temporary permits, and will participate in hearings on suspension, revocation or denial of licenses.

The San Francisco survey, covering the city's physicians, is part of a 2-year study by the United Community Fund. The survey showed that care and rehabilitation of the chronically ill and disabled and care of the aging ran a close second to mental health as the most pressing health problem areas. The *Newsletter* carries an excellent summary of the survey findings. The detailed report is available from the Community Health Services Committee, Health Council, United Community Fund, 2015 Steiner St., San Francisco 15, Calif.

The November 1957 *Social Security Bulletin* carries a special article on the 1957 survey of "Concurrent Receipt of Public Assistance and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance." It shows that more than a half million persons 65 and over were drawing both Old-Age Assistance and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance payments at the same time. This represents 7.8% of the insurance beneficiaries and 22.2% of the assistance recipients. The article also analyzes the role of OAA and OASI programs and their relation to the aged population.

The December *Bulletin* presents the results of the latest survey of voluntary health insurance and appropriate comparisons in an article entitled, "Voluntary Health Insurance and Medical Care Costs, 1948-56."

The *Bulletin* is for sale by the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at \$2.75 per year or 25¢ per copy.

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The January issue of *Geriatrics* inaugurates a new series on "Contemporary Planning in Gerontology" with two articles: "The Sociologic Meaning of Aging" by Prof. R. J. Havighurst, and "Significance of Levels of Wellness in Aging" by Dr. H. L. Dunn. Future articles are promised on State committees, community organization, and national and international planning. Associate Editor Jerome Kaplan, former assistant on aging to the Governor of Minnesota, will be responsible for this series. *Geriatrics* is published monthly at 84 S. Tenth St., Minneapolis 3, Minn., \$8 per year, 75¢ per copy.

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Employment of Older Women—An Annotated Bibliography, 1957 has just been published by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. This new bibliography supersedes and brings up to date an earlier (1954) edition. The present volume offers abstracts of articles and books which deal with hiring practices, attitudes toward employment, and work performance of older women, with a useful subject index. For sale at 30¢ by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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The Indiana State Commission on the Aging and Aged has published *Conference on Health of the Aged in Indiana*, the proceedings of the conference held last October in cooperation with The Senior Citizens of Fort Wayne Area. It presents the major address by Dr. Maurice Linde, "Personality Changes in the Elderly Person," and the two symposia: "State Programs and Facilities" and "Community Programs and Facilities." Write to the Commission at 3516 Central Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind.

Readers interested in adult education as it affects the aging will find most useful two articles, "Research Plans of U.S. Office to Affect Every Adult Educator" and "Are High School Diplomas Available to All Adults?", in the February issue of *Administrators Swap Shop*, published by the National Association of Public School Adult Educators (National Education Association). The Association has kindly consented to send single copies on request to readers of *Aging* as long as the supply lasts. The Association's address is 1201—16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Apartment House and Residence Club Projects for Older Jewish Persons is a 5-page report summarizing experience in experimenting with the provision of facilities for semi-independent living in apartment houses and clubs, coordinated with the services available from a nearby home for the aged. The report, discussing several variations of the projects, contains useful ideas for groups planning special housing, living and health facilities for older persons. For sale at 15¢ by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Inc., 729 Seventh Ave., New York 19, N. Y.

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The Housing and Home Finance Agency has reprinted three papers by E. Everett Ashley, 3rd: "Houses for Our Old Folks—A Neglected Market?", "Financing of Home Purchases by Our Elderly Citizens", and "Getting Better Housing for Our Old Folks: A Report of Progress". All are available free from the HHFA, Washington 25, D. C.

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"Well, You Don't Have to Grow Old", in the February issue of *Changing Times*, presents an appraisal of the reasons so many people fear their old age, with practical suggestions on how to plan during the middle years for a better life in the later years. Single copies 50¢ from 1729 H St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

(Bridgeport—continued from page 3)

for medical care; 9,460 live in "old, deteriorating and inadequate" dwellings, many with no hot water, many more with no central heat, with rent averaging \$16 a week and up to \$100 a month; 11,000 live with relatives "mostly in a state of tension" and would prefer to be on their own; 16,125 have no sick benefits or health insurance; 8,600 have some major disease or impairment; and only 552 (less than 3%) participate in organized social and leisure-time activities.

With these indications of the problem areas, the sponsors, the Family Service Society, the Jewish Community Center and the District Office of the Social Security Administration, set up a

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program committee. It mapped out workshops on the most pressing needs: Recreation and education, income maintenance, health, housing, and counseling for emotional problems.

The Conference was attended by several hundred. The Mayor served as Honorary Chairman while his two opposing candidates for election were in the audience. A leader of the local Catholic Charities gave the invocation.

A major recommendation adopted by the Conference was the creation of a permanent committee on the aging. The committee has been formed and is working on proposals centered on the Conference's decisions on areas of immediate action: Expansion of recreational facilities; investigation and encouragement of employment opportunities for older adults; and establishment of housekeeping and friendly visiting services.

A local newspaper summed up the conference as one "that could well serve as a model for the entire State . . . probably the most ambitious and fruitful conference of its kind ever held in a Connecticut city (which) is only a beginning. But it is an important beginning, out of which could grow a real program for senior citizens."

(Florida—continued from page 2)

mittee of the Community Service Planning Council has secured several full-time scholarships to Jacksonville University for persons 65 years of age and over. The Committee distributes symphony and civic music tickets donated for older citizens, has worked with the Garden Centers in organizing a friendly-visitor service, and has plans underway for developing rehabilitation services for bedridden nursing-home patients. The Senior Center in Jacksonville is sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Pilot Club.

The Committee on Aging of the Community Service Council of Broward County has made surveys of needs of the aged, submitted formal recommendations to the County Commission, and organ-

ized forum presentations in the community. The Ft. Lauderdale Beach Hospital, a 100-bed private facility which began operations about a year ago, was planned exclusively for the medical care and rehabilitation of the chronically ill, the aged, and the handicapped. It plans to establish a geriatric clinic and to institute training in geriatric nursing. In nearby Miami, the Community Service Planning Council's Senior Service Division recently sponsored, in collaboration with the nursing home association, a two-day institute directed at improving understanding of the patient and improving services in nursing homes.

Organizational activities in the field of gerontology are also in evidence. The Florida Council on Aging, the State Gerontological Society, which is now an affiliate of the Gerontological Society, Inc., is cosponsoring with professional societies a number of discussion meetings. The American Society for the Aged will hold, late in February at its Palm Beach headquarters, a research-oriented Conference on Retirement Villages. In Miami the Senior Service Foundation has been at work mainly at the community level.

A survey of housing for the retired which is being made by the Institute of Gerontology of the University of Florida reveals widespread concern with this problem. Retirement hotels, operated on both profit and nonprofit bases, and private housing projects for the retired are becoming increasingly numerous. A pioneering health-and-welfare village, Salhaven, located near Jupiter, accepted its first 25 residents on January 1. The village has been under development since 1953 and has an extensive physical plant.

In this brief summary few details could be presented and many worthwhile developments could not be mentioned. The resume should serve to demonstrate, however, that Florida is on the move and that a brighter future for its older citizens is in prospect.

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